



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST: Holding Your Own in Mass Culture by Sevak Edward Gulbekian

Hampton Roads, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-57174-305-7 (270pp tpb)

Availability: **Australia**—Brumby Books, tel (03) 9761 5535; **NZ**—Peaceful Living, tel (07) 571 8105; **USA**—Hampton Roads Publishing, <http://www.hrpub.com>

Our modern-day mass culture is in the grip of The Beast, characterised by materialism, consumerism and celebrity worship. What it needs, says esoteric book publisher Sevak Gulbekian, is an injection of spirituality; the science of materialism needs to be replaced by the science of spirit.

Acknowledging that we do live in a physical world, Gulbekian proposes a way that we can healthily and constructively engage modern culture from a spiritual perspective and maintain our sanity and balance in the process. The basic premise is that as human beings our task is to tread the spiritual path in a material world. In order to do this, we need to develop heightened capacities of perception so we can have clear insight into the machinations of the material world. This requires, as any true spiritual path does, self-discipline, study and meditation. It also involves learning to appreciate the fine line between truth and illusion and to understand thought as a spiritual force.

Gulbekian's perspective is especially informed by Manichaeism, with its insights into evil and how to transform it, as well as the spiritual philosophies of Rudolf Steiner.

It's also informed by his lifelong study of popular culture, and here he presents case studies that highlight how materialistic culture is ripping away at the deeper currents of human soul and spirituality. He looks at the influence of gangsta rap, where music corporations and the rappers themselves are motivated by money, not social conscience; the spiritual leadership of Prince Charles, which has been so trivialised by the mass media; and the latterday confusion of David Icke, whose interest in shapeshifting reptilian aliens is a descent into materialism on another scale. Gulbekian offers a middle path where we can evolve via our commitment to transforming society from within.

MONTSEGUR AND THE MYSTERY OF THE CATHARS

by Jean Markale

Inner Traditions, USA, 2003

ISBN 0-89281-090-4 (298pp tpb)

Availability: Inner Traditions website, <http://www.innertraditions.com>

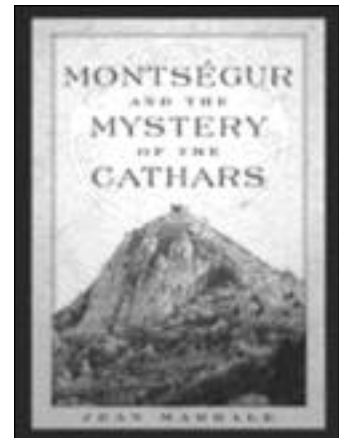
The demise of the Cathar community at the Montségur fortress in the French Pyrénées in 1244 is the stuff of legend. Following a year-long siege, these austere heretics were burned in a pyre at the hands of the French Army on the orders of King Louis IX in an alliance with the papacy and its Inquisition. As the story goes, the night before, four *perfecti* escaped, spiriting away a treasure of some kind. What that treasure comprised has been the subject of endless speculation, as has this secret sect.

Brittany-based philosopher/historian Jean Markale (*Templar Treasure at Gisors*, 10/06) sets out in his 1988 book (recently translated into English) to sift the fact from the fiction. Far from being an heretical sect

of Christianity, Catharism was a dualistic theology that was the heir to Manicheism, Mazdaism and Zoroastrianism; in other words, its roots could be traced to Persia (where earlier versions of the Jesus story emerged). The "heresy" was gaining in popularity in Europe and was a rival to Christianity in some areas—before the Albigenian Crusade was declared.

The Cathars and their treasure have been linked to the Knights Templar via a secret pact, and one answer Markale considers is that the treasure (of interest to both secret societies) was a genealogy establishing the sacred bloodline from the deposed Merovingian line back to Jesus and King David. Thus Grail tradition, Arthurian romance, the Parzival legend, the Rennes-le-Château mystery, Bulgarian Bogomils and even Hitler's SS are woven into this story, as are comparisons between beliefs and rituals of the Cathars, Celts and Druids.

Markale's scholarship challenges us to dabble in diverse schools of thought.



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EGYPT: CHILD OF ATLANTIS

by John S. Gordon

Inner Traditions, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-59143-023-2 (282pp tpb)

Availability: Inner Traditions website,
<http://www.innertraditions.com>

The Egyptian civilisation did not spring up from nowhere but had roots in an ancient worldwide religious and social culture that went back many thousands of years before that. So says John Gordon, a fellow of the Theosophical Society in England. He speculates Egypt was colonised from the Atlantic by Indo-Aryans who migrated via the Atlas Mountains of North Africa after the destruction of Poseidon—Plato's Atlantis—around 11,500 years ago, the remnants of which are the Canary and Madeira Islands that we know today.

Drawing on Blavatsky's mystical teachings as well as anthropological and linguistic comparisons, Gordon suggests there once existed two continents, Ruta and Daitya, in the Atlantic that were wiped out 850,000 and 270,000 years ago respectively. However, looking at a relief map of the Atlantic, any such evidence is not apparent to me, although there are signs of massive landslides between the African continent and the Canary Islands. Speaking of which, the tall statues of the Guanche kings in Tenerife featured here are suggestive of a previously unacknowledged Indo-Caucasian influence.

The bulk of this book is an investigation into the Egyptian cosmological mysteries from a truly Big Picture vision. An understanding of precessional cycles and celestial seasons was intrinsic to the Egyptians' sacred science/religion and gave cohesion to their society. It explained the cosmic hierarchy and attuned the people to the divine. It

was reflected in the placement of cities along the Nile, in the design of monuments and in the sympathetic magic practised by the priests. Over time, the knowledge was corrupted, eventually leading to the demise of a great civilisation. So while Gordon cannot prove many of his assertions, his book opens up cross-disciplinary doors.

THE HEBREW PHARAOHS OF EGYPT: The Secret Lineage of the Patriarch Joseph

by Ahmed Osman

Bear & Company, USA, 2004 (first pub.

1987 by Souvenir, UK, as *Stranger in the Valley of the Kings*)

ISBN 1-59143-022-4 (166pp tpb)

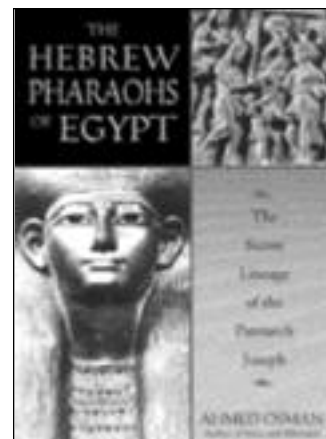
Availability: Inner Traditions website,
<http://www.innertraditions.com>

An obscure passage in the Book of Genesis, where the Hebrew patriarch Joseph says that God sent him to Egypt and made him "a father to Pharaoh", finally led Egyptologist Ahmed Osman to make a surprising connection after many years of study. The Bible says that Joseph was appointed to the exalted position of vizier to the Pharaoh on the basis of his ability to interpret dreams (and predict a famine in enough time to prepare), but there is scant mention of him in the Egyptian records. And the only man referred to as "a father to Pharaoh" was Yuya, vizier to 18th Dynasty king Tuthmosis IV and the only "non-royal" to be entombed in the Valley of the Kings. Osman believes Joseph (Yussuf in the Koran) and Yuya were the same person.

Osman's book was first published in 1987 as *Stranger in the Valley of the Kings* and has now been republished. His work has

inspired other researchers to review established chronologies of pharaonic lines and key events like the Exodus, which Osman dates at around 1308–1307 BC, not the later 1200 BC. (We reviewed his more recent book, *Moses and Akhenaten*, in 10/02.)

His research led him to conclude that Amenhotep III (son of Tuthmosis IV), in the second year of his reign, broke with tradition and married Joseph's Egyptian-born daughter, Tiye (who rates barely a mention in the Bible). Thus Joseph/Yuya was related to the next four Pharaohs as the maternal grandfather of Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten, who introduced the monotheistic Sun god cult—or did he?) and Semenkhekare and the great-grandfather of Tutankhamun. Aye, who succeeded him, was Joseph's second son, Osman believes. By this reckoning the description, "a father to Pharaoh", seems apt. To back up his theory, he includes photographs of Yuya's mummy that confirm his Semitic heritage. Osman's ideas have lifted another veil on our hidden history.





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THE RED-HAIRED GIRL FROM THE BOG: The Landscape of Celtic Myth and Spirit

by Patricia Monaghan

New World Library, CA, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-57731-458-1 (290pp pb)

Availability: New World Library,

<http://www.newworldlibrary.com>

Alaskan-born Patricia Monaghan first went in search of her Irish roots in the 1970s and has had a love affair with the land and her people ever since. While she's written several books on Celtic and Irish spiritual traditions, and in fact teaches literature and environment at DePaul University's School for New Learning in Chicago, this book is a record of and reflection on her experiences in various counties the length and breadth of Ireland over the decades.

Monaghan has weaved a rich tapestry in this spiritual travelogue through the land of her ancestors and of the Irish bards and poets—her favourite being W. B. Yeats. Everywhere she goes she explores the history, myths, fairy lore, poetry, landscapes, petroglyphs, menhirs, ancient names and rituals and hears the stories of her relatives and locals along the way. Ireland is the land of goddesses, and even the name Éire derives from the goddess Ériu, one of the three goddesses who ruled before the Celts arrived around 400 BC and decided to adopt her.

The triple goddess theme is strong in ancient Irish myth, but the most powerful representation is in the form of the Hag—the Cailleach, symbolised in the bedrock of the Western cliffs, whose worship may go back at least 6,000 years or even as far as the first settlement around 7000 BC. With Monaghan, our imagination, vision and feelings are transported into the sacred land with

its features of mountains, caves, lakes, glens, cairns, wells, bogs, and ancient constructions like Newgrange—a pre-Celtic solstice-aligned "suncatcher" which is her "spiritual touchstone". We're also given cause to reflect on modern and historical events in light of the power of nature.

This is a particularly special read for those (including myself) of Irish descent who may never have the chance to walk in the land of their ancestors and their ancestors' deities. (Visit the author's website at <http://www.patriciamonaghan.com> for a sneak peak.)

STUKELEY ILLUSTRATED

compiled by Neil Mortimer

Green Magic Publishing, UK, 2003

ISBN 0-95429-633-8 (135pp tpb)

Availability: Green Magic website,

<http://www.greenmagicpublishing.com>

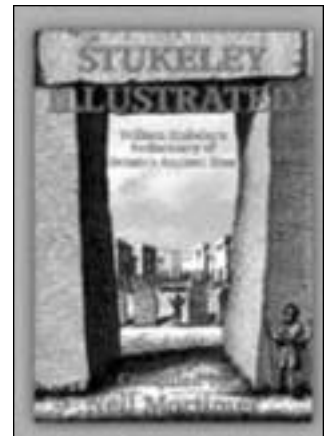
The English antiquarian William Stukeley (1687–1765) is credited as being one of the first to adopt a fieldwork approach that led to the foundation of modern scientific archaeology. An expert draughtsman as well as a medical doctor, freemason, Royal Society fellow and later a pastor obsessed with druidic heritage, Stukeley toured the English countryside between the years 1710 and 1725, visiting ancient Roman and mediaeval sites including churches, cathedrals and natural landmarks, and recording the details in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, first published in 1724 and then in 1776 as an expanded edition (the examples published here are taken from this edition).

It wasn't until 1719 that Stukeley first saw the megalithic sites of Stonehenge and Avebury, and not until 1740 and 1743 that his two famous books on these sites were published. *Stukeley Illustrated*, compiled by

Neil Mortimer (a printer by trade and editor of *3rd Stone* magazine) features a collection of engravings from these books, and they record important archaeological details that don't exist today. They include ground plans and entire landscapes highlighting the sites as they were in his day (with a little fudging on his part for some temple/dragon line areas) and, in some cases, how they may have looked in antiquity.

Before the 18th century, the general belief was that the Romans were responsible for the megalithic sites and numerous barrows dotted around the landscape. By the time Stukeley published his Stonehenge and Avebury books, his interest in druidism as a precursor to Christianity had grown and he mistakenly attributed much of the megalithic influence to the Druids and consequently prompted a revival of druidism.

Stukeley's meticulous draughtsmanship, as seen in the examples presented here, is an inspiration for anyone interested in ancient British megalithic sites and landscapes.



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PROFITS PENDING: How Life Patents Represent the Biggest Swindle of the 21st Century

by **Matthew Albright**

Common Courage Press, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-56751-230-5 (233pp pb)

Availability: Common Courage Press,

<http://www.commoncouragepress.com>

The US Patent Office has granted 20,000 patents on human genes, entire animal species, plants and seeds, foods as well as deadly diseases and has another 25,000 of these so-called "life patents" pending. There are 190 PhD employees working in the biotech department of the Patent Office whose job it is to say what can or cannot be patented. In *Profits Pending*, ethics writer Matthew Albright questions whether it is wise to leave such decisions in the hands of the USPO, industry lawyers and biotechnology scientists. He outlines the biotech industry's pro-patent argument but shows where it all falls down with reference to scientific studies, statistical analyses, and all-too-human stories of hope and tragedy.

This life patent system, Albright says, stifles the free sharing of data between scientists, allows the genetic heritage of entire cultures to be stolen (the Icelandic being one example), and creates monopolies over the world's food resources. It may seem to be counterintuitive, but the system actually stymies research in all fields of biology by locking out researchers who aren't a part of the patent-holding corporation or university. The patent system also doesn't help the economy (biotech corps in the main are still to deliver on their promises, and some are already fighting to retain markets and profitability), and it is an obstacle to fighting the very diseases that the "life sciences" indus-

try has set out to identify genetically. The fact that less than 10% of diseases have a genetic cause (environment and lifestyle taking the lion's share) gives reason to ponder why so much was expended on decoding the human genome on the promise that one day our lives will be free of disease.

Albright correctly points out that this high-technology science has a huge political, bureaucratic and legislative structure surrounding it—yet the people have had little opportunity to debate the issues in the public arena. His book gives some essential perspective for humanity at the crossroads.

PAWN OF WAR

by **Rudi Stiebritz with Jay McKee**

Temple House/Sid Harta Publishers,

Victoria, Australia, 2001

ISBN 1-877059-05-6 (241pb)

Availability: Sid Harta Publishers, tel +61

(0)3 9560 9920, author@sidharta.com.au

Born in Jena, Germany, in 1923, Rudi Stiebritz was drafted into the army in April 1942, just after he'd graduated as an engineer. *Pawn of War* is his memoir of his time as a soldier fighting on the Russian front from 1942 to 1945, and then as a prisoner of war in Siberia from 1945 to 1949.

Stiebritz's story is an engrossing read; and despite all the hardship and hunger, his essential spirit and humanity shine through. Of all the horrendous moments he recounts, two supernatural events stand out. Three months into the fighting, he saw a white-shining figure leave the body of a dead machinegunner and then another figure materialise to lead the bewildered gunner away, both figures then dematerialising. Then, in October 1943, just after narrowly escaping death in a trench, he saw a figure

appear and grow to 10 metres in height; it was an old man dressed in kingly attire, and he told Rudi he was protecting him. This was the most influential event in his life, Rudi says. No doubt it also helped him get through the rest of the war, including his injury and convalescence, his time on leave, the deaths and destruction, and his capture and imprisonment. However, his practical skills, his audaciousness in being able to obtain (and steal) food, and his ability to get on with people (especially beautiful young women!) on his journey helped him survive.

When Stiebritz returned home, East Germany was a communist state; so in 1955 his desire for freedom won out and he emigrated to Australia. A practising Buddhist since 1976, now at age 81 he still has a glint in his one good eye (a car accident in 1963 left him almost blind) and continues to help disabled people where he lives in Brisbane, while writing his next memoir, painting and furthering his studies in Sanskrit.





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THE PHOENIX LIGHTS

by Lynne D. Kitei, MD

Hampton Roads, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-57174-377-4 (222pp tpb)

Availability: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, <http://www.hrpub.com>

The mysterious triangular array of orange lights that moved silently across Arizona on the night of 13 March 1997 has never been explained. The military authorities are not telling what they know of this event, yet the flypast was witnessed by thousands of people along a 300-mile corridor from the Nevada line through Prescott Valley and Phoenix to the northern edge of Tucson.

But this wasn't the first time such light arrays had been seen over Arizona.

Phoenix-based physician Dr Lynne Kitei first observed these lights from her balcony overlooking the city just over two years before. She took photos and kept a video camera at the ready in the following years, capturing the lights including on that March 1997 night. Many of her photographs are included here. She also started talking to the locals from all walks of life, from farmers to air traffic controllers, and realised they had valid testimony to match her own. In her search for answers, Dr Kitei cooperated with a number of big-name ufologists as well as the media in getting across details of the event. The flypast had similarities with the controversial flying triangle sightings over Belgium in 1988 to 1993, which remain unexplained (they're briefly covered here, as are some other milestones in UFO history).

This doctor and health educator had no idea that her chance sightings would lead to her writing a book about this mysterious phenomenon. However, her curiosity and need to make sense of her experiences led

her on a quest, and along the way she's had some unexpected insights into the meaning and purpose of life. She continues her mission to find answers by pressing the government for full disclosure on UFOs. For a preview of what's in store, visit Dr Kitei's website at <http://www.thephoenixlights.net>.

THE MAYAN CALENDAR AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

by Carl Johan Calleman, PhD

Bear & Company, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-59143-028-3 (304pp tpb)

Availability: Inner Traditions website, <http://www.innertraditions.com>

The Mayan sacred calendar, or *tzolkin*, is not so much an astronomical calendar as a map of the development of human consciousness, says Swedish researcher Dr Carl Calleman (<http://www.calleman.com>).

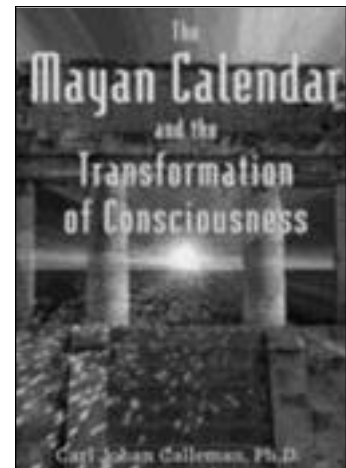
This metaphysical map is a record of how spiritual time flows, and it comes to an end on 28 October 2011—when humanity is expected to transit from the materialist Planetary Underworld and enter the Galactic Underworld and a new, higher frequency of consciousness. Calleman says this is preparation for moving into the Universal Underworld when we will realise we are all one and that the universe, our galaxy, our planet and life-forms are united under the same law of creation and synchronised to the energy changes described by the *tzolkin*.

Materialistic, dualistic ways of thinking will become unstuck by 2012, as they will be incompatible with the higher vibrational frequencies, Dr Calleman suggests. By 2012, when the Mayan calendar runs out of "time", we will supposedly no longer need

the *tzolkin* as we'll have connected with our cosmic evolutionary mission. But to understand where we're going we have to understand where we've been, and the *tzolkin* gives insights into humanity's progress over the last few thousand years. It also has a predictive quality, and can even be used to show the history and future of economic cycles—a big crash expected in late 2007.

The Maya attached great significance to the planet Venus, considering it the manifestation of Quetzalcoatl, and the next transit of Venus across the Sun on 6 June 2004 is seen as a time for our collective consciousness to integrate a sense of spiritual oneness. The following transit, 8 June 2012, is meant to represent a beacon of enlightenment for cosmically connected humanity.

Dr Calleman is of the opinion that a golden age will soon be upon us, and he's backed up by Dr José Argüelles (*The Mayan Factor; Time and the Technosphere*, see 10/01), who contributed the book's foreword.



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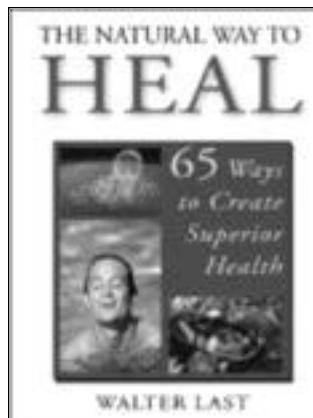


THE NATURAL WAY TO HEAL: 65 Ways to Create Superior Health by Walter Last

Hampton Roads, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-57174-318-9 (481pp tpb)
Availability: **Australia**—Brumby Books, tel (03) 9761 5535; **NZ**—Peaceful Living, tel (09) 921 6222; **USA**—Hampton Roads Publishing, <http://www.hrpub.com>

Retired biochemist and nutritionist Walter Last reflects his holistic approach to health in his new book, *The Natural Way to Heal*. The 65 steps to superior health he outlines are covered under 10 headings, ranging from rebuilding biological health through to emotional and mental health and into the spiritual. To follow the spiritual path—our real purpose—means we need to work on all these other levels, too.

So that means cleansing the body of toxic build-up and metabolic wastes, minimising harmful factors in our lives, having good nutrition, getting exercise and building up our life-force energies. Better emotional,



mental and spiritual health tend to be the result of attending to these physical necessities, and the steps that Last outlines are accessible and practical. They're designed to encourage you, not make you feel daunted, in your quest for better health. They're also based on his broad experience spanning 30 years as a clinical practitioner. (See his article on cancer in this issue.)

There's good advice on correcting acid-alkali balance, drinking living water, choosing amongst natural healing methods including reflexology, acupuncture and urine therapy, and finding the correct nutritional supplements whether vitamins and digestive enzymes or herbs and homeopathic remedies. Last points out general dietary rules as well as special healing foods and the problem foods to avoid. He gives self-care tips on dealing with specific health problems, including cancer and cardiovascular disease, and avoiding harmful electromagnetic radiation. He also describes how to sense subtle

bioenergies and use these for self-healing.

The role of emotions and thoughts in disease and health are important, and Last helps us understand the connections and harness the power of love and the subconscious mind in our quest for healing. He caps it all off with a section on making the spiritual dimension of life second nature. This is a comprehensive, practical self-help manual.

WITCHCRAFT MEDICINE: Healing Arts, Shamanic Practices, and Forbidden Plants

by Claudia Müller-Ebeling, Christian Rättsch, and Wolf-Dieter Storl

Inner Traditions, USA, 2003; first pub. in 1998 in German as *Hexenmedizin*)
ISBN 0-89281-971-5 (240pp tpb)
Availability: Inner Traditions website, <http://www.innertraditions.com>

It's ironic that the UN Codex Commission and national regulators are increasingly exerting more control over, if not outlawing, natural herbal remedies and their derivatives. Their actions today are not dissimilar to those inflicted by the Inquisition, which affected centuries of natural healers and healing in both Europe and the New World.

This natural healing tradition goes way back, and in Europe the culture of the witch was born from the transposition of wild medicine practice to agrarian societies. These healers, who tended to be women, understood nature's healing powers from the study of plants and seasons and by the transfer of knowledge over generations. Their shamanic skills and rituals, their fertility and birthing powers, their clairvoyance, their medical and pharmacological knowledge all added up to a formula that set them apart for good or ill. The witchcraft medicine tradition has been essential to life and health for aeons, and it wasn't going to be wiped out by the Catholic Church, the later rationalist scientific revolution, or even the AMA's Morris Fishbein in the 20th century.

German co-authors Storl, Rättsch and Müller-Ebeling, all anthropologists and/or ethnobotanists, focus primarily on the European witchcraft medicine legacy. (This first English translation lists "plants associated with witches and devils" alphabetically under German names in the appendix.) Their contributions provide grounded information on characteristics and uses of a multitude of plants and herbs as well as on the mythology of female goddess archetypes and the history and nature of witches. There are plenty of illustrations including colour plates, making this book an inspiration to flick through or study in depth.

It's a powerful vote for the primacy of nature in the face of those who would deny it, even in hallowed halls today.



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AMERICAN DYNASTY: Aristocracy, Fortune, and the Politics of Deceit in the House of Bush

by Kevin Phillips

Viking/Penguin, USA, 2004

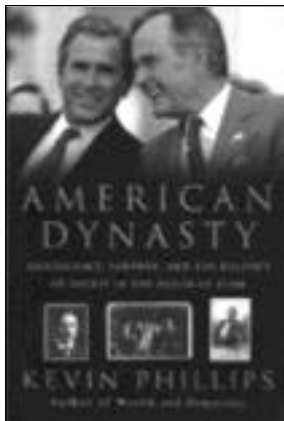
ISBN 0-670-03264-6 (397pp hc)

Availability: Bookstores; author's website

<http://www.americandynasty.net>

There's nothing new about political family dynasties in the United States, but the Bush dynasty has certain peculiar features. Reformed Republican Kevin Phillips charts the history of four generations of Bushes, beginning with the alliance between George Herbert Walker and Samuel P. Bush and giving context to how the family produced two Presidents and still managed to pursue its own economic/geopolitical interests.

The ascendancy of the Walker-Bushes was a process that included infiltrating the eastern establishment, educating themselves at Yale (and joining that key fraternity, Skull & Bones), pursuing Wall Street investment banking opportunities and maintaining



alliances with the British, as Phillips explains. Their main interests have centred around national security and intelligence networks, the military-industrial complex (the arms trade in particular) and energy (especially oil). (Their alleged involvement in the drug trade is barely touched on here.)

The latter-day Bushes established links over the decades with Middle Eastern financial and energy concerns, helped along, too, by George H.W.'s CIA connections. Their brand of "Texanomics", characterised by cultural harshness and crony capitalism, is cloaked in "compassionate conservatism". How they shifted the balance of power to Texas, source of their oil wealth, is "one of the most successful makeovers in modern history", says Phillips. The grooming of George W. Bush for the Texas Governorship and then the US Presidency involved an ideological and religious transformation that converted him into "the *de facto* head of the Religious Right". The "moral" case for the

war for freedom in Iraq is shown up as a pretext for gaining wealth and territory.

Phillips concludes in his damning treatise that the Bush family is rewriting the definition of the Presidency in a way that would shock America's founders to the core.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN THE NEW WORLD

by William F. Mann

Destiny Books, USA, 2004 (first pub. 1999

by Laughing Owl Publishing as *The*

Labyrinth of the Grail)

ISBN 0-89281-185-4 (295pp tpb)

Availability: Inner Traditions website,

<http://www.innertraditions.com>

Legend has it that Henry Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, set sail for the New World in 1398 with his entire fleet, taking some remaining Knights Templar and possibly the Holy Grail to safety and refuge. If so, where did they go? Apparently they established a colony in Nova Scotia, concludes William Mann, whose late great-uncle was a Supreme Grand Master of the Knights Templar of Canada and left some clues.

Mann's enquiries cover aspects of sacred landscape geometry, the zodiac and tarot, the paintings of Nicolas Poussin and the Rennes-le-Château mystery, ancient cartography, native legends, archaeological evidence, historical records and more. He reviews the history of Oak Island, in Mahone Bay, where an alleged Knights Templar repository still may contain treasures. The island, planted with oaks, may have been a signpost to the secret Templar refuge inland, and Mann retraces what is known of Sinclair's voyage (giving credit to the work of Michael Bradley, author of the 1988 book *Holy Grail Across the Atlantic*).

The place Mann believes was the site of the refuge is south of Minas Basin around the Green Oaks area in the centre of Nova Scotia. The site is located along the so-called Satan's Axis which runs down the east coast of North America to intersect with Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Various ruins and artefacts he found in the area seem to support his theory.

Another thread in this story is that of the Holy Grail, referring to the bloodline descendants of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. The speculation is that the heirs of the de Bouillon family, who claimed descent from the bloodline, were spirited away to the new Acadia. Whoever did settle in Nova Scotia, they moved westwards; core samples found around Lake Ontario show that a formerly unknown population of Europeans lived there from 1580 to 1620. Obviously, more cross-disciplinary research is required to get further into the heart of this mystery. Mann's investigations help point the way.

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VIDEOS, DVDs

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

NEXUS 2003 EUROPE

CONFERENCE – VIDEOS & DVDs

Produced and directed by Bert Janssen
Prices: DVD – € 21.90, Video – € 19.90
Distributor: Frontier Sciences Foundation,
PO Box 48, Enkhuizen 1600 AA, The
Netherlands, tel +31 0228 324076, fax
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Destroying Darwin's Theories with ET Intervention
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Nikola Tesla, Man of the Century
Video

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DVD and Video

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Evidence that Planets are Hollow
Video

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THE TRUTH AND LIES OF 9-11

presented by **Mike Ruppert**

Produced by *From The Wilderness (FTW)*

Publications and Mike Ruppert

Price: US\$24.95 + p&h (DVD or Video)

Availability: *FTW*, PO Box 6061-350,

Sherman Oaks, CA 91413, USA,

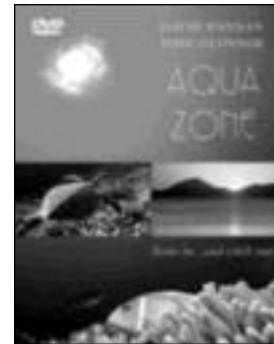
telephone +1 (818) 788 8791, website

<http://www.fromthewilderness.com>



This is an updated package incorporating Mike Ruppert's groundbreaking lecture at Portland State University, Oregon, in November 2001. The DVD/video has nearly 2.5 hours of hard-hitting information, covering September 11, peak oil geopolitics, the drug trade and the corporate/military-industrial coup of America.

Everyone should see this film!



AQUA ZONE

by **David Hannan and Tony O'Connor**

Price: AUD\$29.95 + p&h (DVD only)

Availability: Studio Horizon, PO Box 296,

Mapleton, Qld 4560, Australia, website

<http://www.tonyoconnor.com.au>

This is what every NEXUS reader needs to have on hand for relaxation after reading each mind-numbing edition!

This DVD is truly as good as it gets: some of the best underwater filmwork you will ever see, combined with some of the best music you will ever hear. No dialogue; just an hour of breathtaking images and beautiful instrumental music.

This has to be the perfect gift for anyone with a DVD player. Just get it!



REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

SPIRAL OF CHANGE

by Tommy Leonard

Leonard Music, Australia, 2003 (48mins)
Distributor: **Australia**—Leonard Music, tel 0409 264 276 (mobile), website <http://www.tommyleonard.com>

Small communities have grown around the world in the last 30 years in an effort to change and humanise the way the Western capitalist system operates. Tommy Leonard, from the community of Maleny in southeast Queensland, has put together a moving acoustic tribute to the people who make communities work. Wonderful words with a touch of humour make this an album of vision for the future. He says, "My words are little seeds, but they burn with a passion and a fire. And my songs, like a gentle breeze, will fan the flames long after my time." An inspiring and engaging selection of heartfelt social comment.

GODDESS GROOVE

by various artists

Music Mosaic, Australia, 2004 (57mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Music Mosaic, tel (02) 6684 3143, website <http://www.music-mosaic.com>; **USA**—New Leaf Distribution, tel (770) 948 7845

The Australian-based Music Mosaic label produces exciting dub and ambient music for the world beat market. *Goddess Groove* is an inspirational mix of special appeal to women—songs to move the heart and lift the spirit. Rhythmic melodies unfold like a flower offered to the goddess in all her forms—child, lover, mother and elder. Sinuous sounds from Thailand, Morocco, Ireland, Australia and the UK, mixed with modern and exotic instruments, accompany the goddess in her dance.

DOOR OF FAITH

by Krishna Das

Karuna/Artemis, USA, 2003 (60mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Difrnt Music, tel (02) 9387 4552; **USA**—Koch Entertainment, www.karunamusic.com

Krishna Das has performed for crowds all over the world and influenced many leading exponents of global sounds with his devotional music. Recognised as a master of spiritual chanting and musical forms, he combines traditional Indian chants with modern sounds. *Door of Faith* is his fifth release and among his best. Sweet music and deep feeling in these ancient prayers from America's leading spiritual singer.

OUMOU

by Oumou Sangare

World Circuit Ltd, UK, 2003 (2CDs, 101mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—World Circuit, tel (0)1689 870622, <http://www.worldcircuit.co.uk>

Oumou Sangare is considered one of the great divas of Mali and is a champion of women's rights in her country. She comes from the southern region of Mali known as Wasulu. Using her powerful voice and position as a leading singer of Malian music, she pushes forward with women's issues. Her first successful album, *Moussolou* ("Women") was released in 1990 and was followed up by two further releases. This double CD has eight new tracks as well as her best from earlier albums. An amazing woman with a charismatic manner and an hypnotic voice.

WOMEN OF AFRICA

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2004 (41mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo, tel 1888 7888 8629, website <http://www.putumayo.com>

Keeping in with the theme of women, Putumayo has released an album to celebrate the role of African women in their continent's music. While men tend to play the instruments, women more than likely provide the vocal lead or backing in much African music. Celebrated here are some of today's favourites: Angélique Kidjo (Benin), Tarika (Madagascar), Khadja Nin (Burundi), Judith Sephuma (South Africa), Maria de Barros (Cape Verde), Kaïssa (Cameroon), Dorothy Masuka (Zimbabwe) and others. An outstanding selection of soul sounds and lyrics from Africa.

